

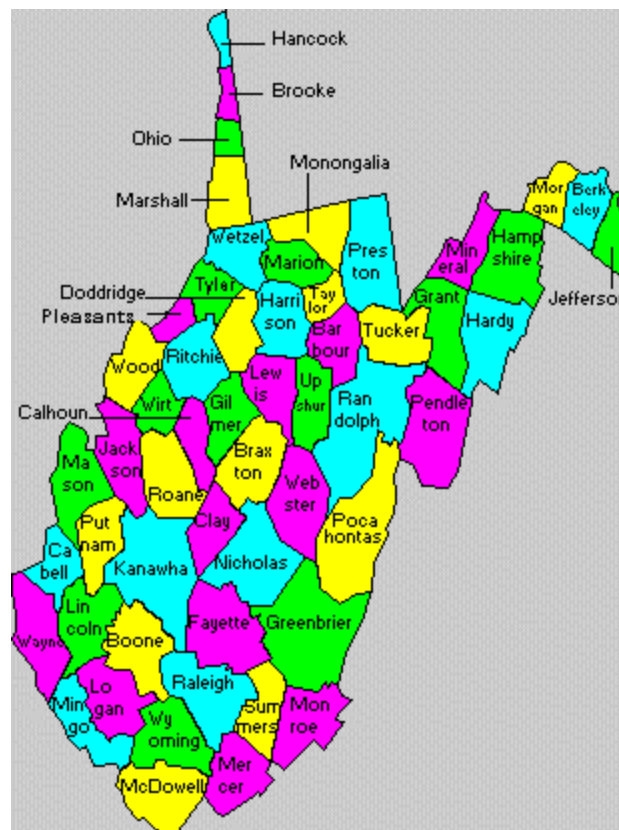
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of West Virginia

Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

West Virginia

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 1,806,928 (1999 estimate); 1,793,477 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 96.2% white; 3.1% African American; 0.1% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 0.4% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 0.5% Hispanic

Politics²

- Governor: Cecil H. Underwood
- Attorney General: Darrell V. McGraw, Jr.
- Secretary of State: Ken Hechler
- U.S. Senate: Robert Byrd (D); John Rockefeller (D)
- U.S. Representatives (District): Allan B. Mollohan (1); Robert E. Wise, Jr. (2); Nick J. Rahall II (3)

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
The Appalachia HIDTA was designated in 1998 and is responsible for counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, and eleven counties in West Virginia. This HIDTA was designated in part because of the enormous quantity of marijuana produced, consumed, and trafficked in and through the area.
- FY99 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantee awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):⁴
 - \$100,000 to the Jefferson County Coalition on Substance Abuse FOCUS Coalition, Charles Town
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁵
Wheeling: This Weed and Seed initiative, also known as O.N.E. (Our Neighborhoods Empowered) Wheeling Committee, targets an area of the city called East Wheeling. This area has a population of approximately 3,000 and a poverty rate of 40%. Some of the problems identified in this target area include the following:
 - High rates of violent and drug-related crimes
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Residents returning from incarceration or treatment programs having difficulty reintegrating into the community.
- CREATE for a Drug-Free West Virginia⁶
The mission of this program is to promote the health and well being of the citizens of West Virginia. In addition, this program aims at eliminating the unhealthy or illicit use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs among youth and adults.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- An increase in competition in marijuana distribution has resulted in an increase in drug-related violence. Growers have begun using firearms, explosives, and booby traps, which has resulted in an increased threat to law enforcement.⁷

- There were 4,233 arrests for drug abuse violations in West Virginia during 1998.⁸

Number of Arrests, West Virginia, 1998

	Juveniles	Total All Ages
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	1	59
Forcible Rape	10	88
Robbery	27	237
Aggravated Assault	101	1,311
Burglary	469	1,488
Larceny-theft	1,400	5,103
Motor Vehicle Theft	154	418
Drug Abuse Violations	436	4,233
Driving Under the Influence	118	9,394
Liquor Laws	520	3,299

Drugs⁹

- Marijuana has become a substantial part of the local economy in the Appalachia region-it is the number one cash crop here.
- An ideal climate for marijuana cultivation, poverty, and a rural geography facilitates marijuana production and transportation across county and state lines. There are also approximately 75 public and private airports in the Appalachia HIDTA's region.

Juveniles¹⁰

- 47.7% of high school students surveyed in 1997 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.

Percent of High School Students Reported Selected Drug Use, WV, 1997

	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	43.7	52.0	47.7
Current Marijuana Use (2)	24.0	33.3	28.5
Lifetime Cocaine Use	7.8	11.3	9.5
Current Cocaine Use	2.6	5.4	3.9
Lifetime Crack or Freebase Use	5.3	7.3	6.2
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	4.8	8.8	6.7
Lifetime Injected Drug Use	2.2	4.6	3.4
Lifetime Use of Other Illegal Drugs (3)	20.9	26.3	23.5
Sniffed or Inhaled Intoxicating Substances	26.4	30.6	28.4

1. Lifetime Use = used substance at least once in lifetime
2. Current Use = used substance one or more times in the 30 days preceding the survey
3. Other Drugs = ever used any other type of illegal drug (e.g., LSD, PCP, MDMA, mushrooms, methamphetamine, heroin)

- 11.0% of West Virginia high school students surveyed reported trying marijuana before age 13.
- 2.9% of male high school students surveyed reported trying cocaine before age 13.

- 34.0% of West Virginia high school students surveyed reported being offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property.
- 13.9% of male students surveyed reported using marijuana on school property.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Marijuana trafficking organizations in this area are often kin-based and family-oriented.¹¹
- In 1998, there were 511,573 marijuana plants eradicated and seized in West Virginia under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.¹²

Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, West Virginia, 1998

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>			<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Ditchweed Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
849	40,149	470,875	24	549	511,573

Enforcement

- Appalachia HIDTA Initiatives:¹³
 - Eradication Strike Force: members in all three states (KY, TN, WV) conduct multi-agency aerial and ground surveillance to identify and eliminate outdoor and indoor cultivated marijuana.
 - Interdiction Team: members in all three states investigate, identify and immobilize major domestic and international smuggling and trafficking into and through the region by conducting highway interdictions.
 - Demand Reduction Team: members in all three states conduct year-round demand reduction operations in order to reduce marijuana use and alter the public's perception that marijuana is a benign drug.
- As of October 31, 1998 there were 4,029 full-time law enforcement employees in West Virginia.¹⁴

Full-time Law Enforcement Employees, WV, 1998

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Civilians</u>		Total Employees
Male	Female	Male	Female	
2,923	107	416	583	4,029

- Drug Identification Section of WV State Police¹⁵
 - The Drug Identification Section analyzes and identifies any suspected controlled substances submitted to the Crime Lab.
 - In 1999, there were 4,488 drug cases submitted to the lab. There were 4,433 cases submitted in 1998.
 - Marijuana is the most common drug submitted and accounts for approximately 50% of the caseload.

Courts

- Drug Courts in West Virginia:¹⁶

- A juvenile drug court was recently implemented in Huntington, Cabell County.
 - There is a drug court being planned in Hamlin, Lincoln County.
- In FY98, 58.7% of the Federally sentenced offenders in West Virginia had committed a drug offense. The majority of these offenses (48.2%) involved crack cocaine, followed by marijuana (24.1%), powder cocaine (14%), methamphetamine (10.5%), and other drugs (3.1%).¹⁷

Corrections

- On June 30, 1999 there were 3,699 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in West Virginia. This is an 8.9% increase over the number of prisoners on June 30, 1998 (3,396).¹⁸
- The West Virginia Division of Corrections consists of 13 institutions.¹⁹
- In January of 1999, all West Virginia inmates were tested for drugs. Nearly 3,000 urine tests were taken and less than 3% were positive for drugs. The WV Division of Corrections has been drug testing its inmates since 1989.²⁰
- At the end of 1998 there were 6,362 adults on probation in West Virginia.²¹
- During 1998, the number of adults on parole in West Virginia increased 9.1%. At the beginning of the year (January 1) there were 894 adults on parole, and by the end of the year (December 31) this number had increased to 975.²²

Treatment

- There are 81 substance abuse treatment facilities in West Virginia. These facilities serve 4,704 clients.²³
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program (RSAT)²⁴
This program assists in the development and implementation of residential substance abuse treatment programs within State and local correctional and detention facilities. The goal is to reduce recidivism by implementing these programs that provide individual and group treatment activities for offenders. These programs must:
- Last between 6 and 12 months;
 - Be provided in a residential treatment facility set apart from the general correctional population;
 - Focus on the substance abuse problem of the inmate;
 - Develop the inmate's cognitive, behavioral, social, vocational, and other skills to solve the substance abuse and related problems.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² West Virginia Web site: <http://www.state.wv.us>

³ Appalachia HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/appl-main.html>

⁴ Drug-Free Communities Web site: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/drugfree/chart99.html>

⁵ Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

⁶ West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services: <http://www.wvdcjs.com/safecom.htm>

⁷ Appalachia HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/appl-main.html>

⁸ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr>

⁹ Appalachia HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/appl-main.html>

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- ¹⁰ CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Summaries (YRBS):
<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00054432.htm>
- ¹¹ Appalachia HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/appl-main.html>
- ¹² Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1998*:
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- ¹³ Appalachia HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/appl-main.html>
- ¹⁴ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr>
- ¹⁵ West Virginia State Police: <http://wvstatepolice.com/crime/>
- ¹⁶ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000
- ¹⁷ U.S. Sentencing Commission: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/1998/wv98.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*, April 2000:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pjim99.pdf>
- ¹⁹ West Virginia Division of Corrections: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvdoc/institutions.htm>
- ²⁰ West Virginia Division of Corrections, *Corrections Connection*, February-March 1999:
<http://www.state.wv.us/wvdoc/newsletter.htm>
- ²¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998*:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus98.pdf>
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Uniform Facility Data Set (UFDS) 1997-Data on Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities*: <ftp://ftp.samhsa.gov/pub/ufds/ufdsrpt97.pdf>
- ²⁴ West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services: <http://www.wvdcjs.com/rsat.htm>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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